

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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USIA-06 OES-03 CU-02 COME-00 NSF-01 AID-05 EB-07

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ACDA-05 FS-01 ABF-01 AGR-05 DOTE-00 EPA-01 HEW-02

HUD-01 INT-05 LOC-01 NASA-01 SMI-01 FRB-03 XMB-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 PC-01 /115 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 TUNIS 0457

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, TS, US

SUBJECT: US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION

REF: (A) TUNIS 7074

(B) STATE 278642

(C) TUNIS 0075

(D) TUNIS 0211

(E) STATE 013762

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY SUBMITS HERewith DETAILED COUNTRY
TEAM PROPOSAL CONCERNING STRUCTURING OF US-TUNISIAN
JOINT COMMISSION IN SUCH A WAY AS TO SATISFY GOT REQUEST
THAT COMMISSION BE BROAD-GAUGED, WHILE AT SAME TIME
MEETING DEPARTMENT'S CONCERNS OVER BROAD SPECTRUM APPROACH
AND ITS DESIRE TO EMPHASIZE TRADE AND INVESTMENT. THIS
MESSAGE IS BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS: (1) AREAS TO BE
COVERED; (2) FUNCTIONS; (3) OVERALL OBJECTIVES; (4) FORMAT
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AND AGENDA; (5) ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY; (6) LEVEL OF

REPRESENTATION; (7) TIMING; AND (8) EMPHASIS ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT. WE PROPOSE JOINT COMMISSION MEET ANNUALLY, ALTERNATING BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND TUNIS, AND THAT FIRST MEETING BE HELD IN OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR. WE ENVISAGE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OPENING SESSIONS, WITH HIS DEPUTY SERVING AS CHAIRMAN. SECRETARY AND TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD MEET SEPARATELY. WE HOPE THIS MESSAGE WILL ENABLE DEPARTMENT TO RECONSIDER ITS INITIAL PROPOSAL TO LIMIT JOINT COMMISSION TO TRADE AND INVESTMENT, AND FACILITATE A DECISION IN DIRECTION OF CREATING A COMMISSION WITH A BROAD MANDATE. END SUMMARY.

1. AREAS TO BE COVERED

A. BREAKDOWN: WE PROPOSE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT EACH JOINT COMMISSION MEETING: (1) TRADE AND INVESTMENT; (2) ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE; (3) MILITARY ASSISTANCE; (4) CULTURAL AFFAIRS; (5) SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION (SFCP); (6) MISCELLANEOUS.

B. COMMENT:

(1) WE BELIEVE THAT IMPORTANT ITEM UNDER MISCELLANEOUS SHOULD BE DISCUSSION OF PRIVATE FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES IN TUNISIA, INCLUDING FORD FOUNDATION, PROJECT HOPE, IESC, CARE, CRS AND AFME. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS TO ATTEND JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS, BUT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO BRING TUNISIANS UP-TO-DATE REGARDING NATURE AND EXTENT OF THESE PRIVATE ACTIVITIES. THIS WOULD INSURE THAT TUNISIANS UNDERSTAND BREADTH OF TOTAL U.S. ACTIVITY IN TUNISIA AND DEMONSTRATE HOW PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS COMPLEMENT USG PROGRAMS.

(2) ANOTHER MISCELLANEOUS ITEM WHICH USG SIDE COULD POSSIBLY CONSIDER RAISING IS TUNISIAN SUPPORT IN UN VOTING ON CERTAIN ISSUES. WE THROW THIS OUT ONLY AS A TENTATIVE SUGGESTION SINCE WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO EXCLUDE ALL POLITICAL ITEMS FROM REGULAR JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS AND RESERVE THEM FOR SEPARATE BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
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(SEE PARA 5, FORMAT AND AGENDA).

(3) AS WE HAVE INDICATED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES, WE DO NOT RPT NOT FEEL THAT WASHINGTON SHOULD BE CONCERNED THAT INCLUSION OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE ITEMS IN JOINT COMMISSION MANDATE CONSTITUTES A PROBLEM OF RAISING GOT EXPECTATIONS. WE BELIEVE THIS TO BE THE CASE EVEN THOUGH OVERALL RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE

PROGRAMS IN TUNISIA CONTINUE TO BE LIMITED. RE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, WE HAVE ALREADY LAID GROUNDWORK FOR DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AID DIRECTION IN DAP WHICH WAS, IN PART, A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT WITH GOT. JOINT COMMISSION WOULD MERELY BE GIVING ITS "SEAL OF APPROVAL" TO A PROCESS IN WHICH WE ARE ALREADY ENGAGED. SINCE DAP LAYS OUT A THREE TO FIVE YEAR STRATEGY IN OUTLINE FORM, FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS COULD BE CONFINED TO ASSESSING PROGRESS, DISCUSSION CHANGING DIRECTIONS IN AID PROGRAMS AS THEY COME ABOUT, AND SERVE AS A JOINT FORUM FOR GENERAL REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY. GOT ALREADY UNDERSTANDS THAT DAP PROCESS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A FIRM COMMITMENT OF FUNDS, BUT MERELY LAYS OUT GENERAL DIRECTIONS AND FRAMEWORK OF OUR PROGRAMS. JOINT COMMISSION WOULD CERTAINLY GO NO FURTHER THAN DAP, AND WOULD BE GUIDED BY IT, BUT COMMISSION WOULD HAVE ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE OF EXPOSING HIGHER LEVEL TUNISIAN OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS THOSE NOT IMMEDIATELY CONNECTED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, TO NATURE OF OUR PROGRAMS AND REASONING BEHIND OUR ASSISTANCE STRATEGY.

(4) RE MILITARY ASSISTANCE, WE PERCEIVE A NUMBER OF ADVANTAGES. MEETING OF JOINT COMMISSION OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AN ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF TUNISIAN MILITARY REQUIREMENTS IN OVERALL CONTEXT OF GOT'S NATIONAL PRIORITIES. FORCING MOD TO CONDUCT AN ORDERLY EVALUATION OF ITS MILITARY REQUIREMENTS IN PREPARATION FOR JOINT COMMISSION AND COMMISSION'S PLACING THOSE REQUIREMENTS IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL GOT BUDGET COULD MINIMIZE UNREALISTIC SECURITY ASSISTANCE REQUESTS AND STIMULATE FORMULATION OF VALID LONG-RANGE DEFENSE OBJECTIVES. COMMISSION MEETING WOULD ALSO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR JOINT EVALUATION OF GOT EFFORTS DIRECTED TOWARD A GREATER DEGREE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN PROVIDING FOR THEIR OWN
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DEFENSE. INCLUSION OF MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS ON THE AGENDA, INCLUDING REVIEW OF LONGSTANDING U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE, WOULD EMPHASIZE CONTINUING U.S. INTEREST IN TUNISIAN SECURITY. COMMISSION MEETING ALSO COULD SERVE TO ENHANCE TUNISIAN APPRECIATION AT HIGH GOVERNMENTAL LEVELS OF U.S. RESTRAINTS IN PROVIDING SECURITY ASSISTANCE. CONCURRENTLY COMMISSION COULD PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN AN APPRECIATION OF GOT DEFENSE GOALS, PRIORITIES AND POSITIONS ON MATTERS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8024

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 TUNIS 0457

3. FUNCTIONS

A. BREAKDOWN: WE SEE TWO BASIC FUNCTIONS OF JOINT COMMISSION AS (1) REVIEWING ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF PREVIOUS YEAR AND (2) DISCUSSING PLANS AND GOALS FOR COMING YEAR. IN THE PROCESS WE WOULD EXPECT TWO SIDES TO EXCHANGE VIEWS, DISCUSS AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND CONSTRAINTS AND IDENTIFY PROBLEMS WITHOUT NECESSARILY SEEKING TO RESOLVE THEM IN THIS FORUM. COMMISSION WOULD NOT RPT NOT MAKE DECISIONS.

B. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT JOINT COMMISSION SHOULD FUNCTION AS A KIND OF REVIEW BOARD WHICH WOULD EXAMINE CURRENT BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IN ALL OF ITS ASPECTS, AS WELL AS ASSESS DIRECTION IN WHICH VARIOUS U.S. OFFICIAL PROGRAMS ARE GOING. IT IS OUR THOUGHT THAT JOINT COMMISSION SHOULD FOCUS ON GOALS AND PURPOSES OF OUR BILATERAL COLLABORATION AND AVOID TAKING THE TIME

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TO RESOLVE SPECIFIC ISSUES. LATTER CAN BE HANDLED IN EXISTING BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS. THUS, COMMISSION WOULD, INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE, CONCENTRATE ON TOTALITY OF OUR RELATIONSHIP.

4. OVERALL OBJECTIVES

A. BREAKDOWN:

(1) STRENGTHEN OVERALL U.S.-TUNISIAN RELATIONSHIP (MERE EXISTENCE OF JOINT COMMISSION IS USEFUL IN THIS REGARD AS SYMBOLIZING CLOSE U.S.- TUNISIAN RELATIONSHIP).

(2) OBTAIN BETTER TUNISIAN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WE ARE DOING IN TUNISIA IN VARIOUS AREAS (MANY TUNISIAN OFFICIALS ARE UNAWARE, FOR EXAMPLE, OF MANY SFCP PROJECTS, OR WHAT THE PEACE CORPS IS DOING).

(3) ACHIEVE FULL TUNISIAN APPRECIATION OF DWINDLING USG RESOURCES IN WASHINGTON (ATTENDANCE OF WASHINGTON-BASED OFFICIALS WHO HAVE FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE WITH CONGRESSIONAL MOODS SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD).

(4) ENLIST, WHERE NECESSARY, GREATER TUNISIAN COOPERATION (E.G. RE LEGISLATIVELY-REQUIRED SURVEY OF MAP EQUIPMENT IN TUNISIAN POSSESSION; RE APPROVING NOMINEES FOR LEADER GRANT PROGRAM WITH GREATER DESPATCH; RE IMPROVING PROCEDURES FOR PROGRAM REVIEW AND PROJECT APPROVAL OF SFCP PROJECTS; AND, POSSIBLY, RE TUNISIAN SUPPORT FOR U.S. POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AT UN).

(5) CLARIFY DIFFERENCES (E.G. GHARDIMOU INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL PROJECT IS CASE IN POINT WHERE DIFFERENCES IN TECHNICAL APPROACH BETWEEN AID AND CERTAIN OFFICES IN TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT).

(6) FACILITATE EVENTUAL RESOLUTION OF ISSUES WHICH HAVE LONG BEEN OUTSTANDING (E.G. FOR SOME TWO YEARS EMBASSY HAS SOUGHT TO INDUCE GOT TO COME TO GRIPS WITH PROPOSED NEW ABMC CARTHAGE CEMETERY AGREEMENT; CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUED ABSENCE OF ACROSS-THE-BOARD EQUIVALENCE OF TUNISIAN AND AMERICAN ACADEMIC DEGREES).

B. COMMENT: USG SHOULD ATTEMPT TO USE COMMISSION APPROACH AS A MECHANISM TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON EVOLVING NATURE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. AS SUCH, JOINT

COMMISSION SHOULD AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BE FUTURE ORIENTED, STARTING FROM WHERE WE ARE TODAY WITH RESPECT TO EACH ELEMENT OF OUR TOTAL RELATIONSHIP, AND LOOK AT WHERE OUR RELATIONSHIP IS GOING. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE COULD USE THIS FORUM TO ALERT TUNISIANS TO LIKELY EVOLUTION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, MILITARY ASSISTENCE PROGRAMS, TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROSPECTS (SEE PARA 9, B BELOW) AND OPPORTUNITIES, ETC. IN THIS SENSE, JOINT COMMISSION WOULD HELP FOREWARN TUNISIANS OF CHANGES THAT WE SEE DOWN THE ROAD, SO THAT THERE WOULD BE A MINIMUM OF UNEXPECTED SURPRISES AND A COMPREHENSION ON TUNISIAN SIDE OF STABILITY OF OUR TOTAL RELATIONSHIP, EVEN IF SPECIFIC PROGRAMS WILL BE DECLINING DURING THAT PERIOD.

5. FORMAT AND AGENDA.

A. EMBASSY BELIEVES WORK OF COMMISSION SHOULD BE DIVIDED INTO TWO CONSECUTIVE MORNING SESSIONS. SEVERAL POSSIBLE FORMATS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED. WHILE ENSUING DESCRIPTION DEALS WITH FORMAT IN WASHINGTON, COMPARABLE FORMAT WOULD BE ADHERED TO IN TUNIS. TWO FORMATS IN PARTICULAR SUGGEST THEMSELVES TO US:

B. MEETING TO BE OPENED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEA FOLLOWED BY SHORT ADDRESS BY TUNISIAN COUNTERPART. CHAIRMANSHIP THEN TURNED OVER TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, NEA FOR REMAINDER OF SESSION. CLOSING REMARKS MIGHT BE MADE BY SECRETARY AND TUNISIAN FONMIN. (ALTERNATIVELY, SECRETARY AND TUNISIAN FONMIN MIGHT MAKE BRIEF APPEARANCE AT BEGINNING.) COMMISSION FOLLOWS A BROAD AGENDA FOR FIRST MORNING IN KEEPING WITH GENERALIZED APPROACH CITED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, E.E., TRADE AND INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC MATTERS, SECURITY, SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL. AGENDA FOR SECOND MORNING WOULD CONSIST OF CLOSER LOOK AT PROBLEMS THAT DEVELOP DURING COURSE OF FIRST MORNING'S SESSION, WITH

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AGENDA TO BE WORKED OUT AND AGREED UPON BEFORE CLOSE OF FIRST MORNING SESSION. BOTH SIDES WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY MAKE SHORT PRESENTATIONS COVERING GENERAL SUBJECTS DURING FIRST MORNING AND IDENTIFY ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS OF CONCERN FOR DISCUSSION FOLLOWING MORNING. POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION SECOND MORNING WOULD HAVE BEEN NONETHELESS ALREADY IDENTIFIED (SEE 5, D, 3 BELOW). SPECIFIC AGENDA WOULD DERIVE FROM THESE TOPICS, PLUS RESULTS OF DISCUSSION FIRST MORNING.

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USIA-06 OES-03 CU-02 COME-00 NSF-01 AID-05 EB-07

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 IGA-01 OPIC-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8025

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 TUNIS 0457

C. ALTERNATIVELY, AGENDA COULD BE DRAWN UP THAT IDENTIFIES IN ADVANCE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS UNDER GENERAL HEADINGS, THESE PROBLEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT TIME OF PRESENTATION, WITH ANY SPILLOVER TO BE HANDLED FOLLOWING DAY. THIS METHOD WOULD PROBABLY PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR GREATER GIPS ###

###PROBABLY HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY CONTROLLED BY CHAIR TO INSURE THAT FULL RANGE OF AGENDA IS COVERED IN TIME AVAILABLE.

D. COMMENT:

(1) WE EXPECT TUNISIANS WILL PROBABLY WANT THEIR DELEGATION TO BE LED BY FONMIN HIMSELF. THEY MAY WISH HIM BE PRESENT THROUGHOUT ALL OR MOST OF
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MEETING. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT TUNISIANS WOULD AGREE TO SEPARATE FONMIN-SECRETARY MEETING OR LUNCHEON AND SEPARATE SCHEDULE FOR FONMIN ON UNDERSTANDING THAT LATTER COULD BE PRESENT EITHER AT CLOSE OF SECOND SESSION (PERHAPS TO SUM UP RESULTS OF MEETING FROM TUNISIAN VIEWPOINT) OR AT BEGINNING. WE WOULD, THUS, PROPOSE THAT SECRETARY AND FONMIN MEET SEPARATELY TO DEAL WITH POLITICAL ISSUES.

(2) WE SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT HOST DINNER FOR TUNISIANS EVENING OF FIRST DAY AND THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO INVITING TUEST SPEAKER SUCH AS CONGRESSMAN WHO MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF REALITIES AMERICAN POLITICAL LIFE BY TUNISIAN DELEGATION.

(3) WE WOULD EXPECT THAT SPECIFIC TOPICS ON AGENDA (IN CONNECTION WITH ANY BREAKDOWN WITHIN BROAD AGENDA) WOULD BE DISCUSSED AND AGREED UPON IN ADVANCE. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE AVOID SOME DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC PROBLEMS BUT, AS INDICATED EARLIER, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS CAN BE DONE IN SUFFICIENTLY GENERAL WAY TO AVOID ANY COMMITMENTS.

(4) TIME LIMITS FOR DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS SUBJECTS WOULD HAVE TO BE SET AND ADHERED TO AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE WITHIN CONTEXT OF GENERAL PURPOSE OF MEETING.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINE HTJ12&23 BELIEVE THAT COMMISSION MEETING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH MINIMUM OF ADMINISTRATIVE DETAIL AND OVERHEAD. AGENDA IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED UNDER BROAD HEADINGS CAN BE INITIALLY PROPOSED BY EMBASSY IN CONSULTATION WITH TUNISIANS. WASHINGTON ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS CAN BE CHECKED OUT HERE. POSITION PAPERS WOULD NO DOUBT BE REQUIRED. EMBASSY WOULD BE PREPARED SUBMIT SHORT INITIAL DRAFTS TO DEPARTMENT. SOME FOCAL POINT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE NECESSARY IN DEPARTMENT TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS AND COORDINATE PAPERS. LOGICAL CHOICE TO US WOULD BE COUNTRY DIRECTORATE (NEA/AFN). DISCUSSIONS THEMSELVES CAN EITHER BE TAPED, FOR LATER TRANSCRIPTION, OR
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RECORDED BY NOTETAKER. COUNTRY DIRECTORATE WOULD PREPARE SUMMARY OF DELIBERATIONS AND HAVE THEM TRANSLATED INTO FRENCH. SUMMARY WOULD BE PROVIDED TO TUNISIANS WITH ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF SECURING JOINT AGREEMENT. (TUNISIANS WILL CERTAINLY TAKE NOTES THEMSELVES AND

MAY WISH MORE ELABORATE FINAL DOCUMENT THAN WE THINK NECESSARY. WE BELIEVE WE CAN TALK THEM INTO JOINT AGREEMENT OF A SIMPLE SUMMARY.) WHEN MEETINGS HELD IN TUNIS, TUNISIANS WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARATION OF SUMMARY.

7. LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION. AS SUGGESTED EARLIER, WE BELIEVE MEETING MIGHT BE OPENED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEA AND THEN CHAIRED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEA. PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE AT COUNTRY DIRECTOR LEVEL. SPECIALISTS MIGHT BE ADDED, BUT WE WOULD HOPE THEY CAN BE KEPT DOWN TO A BARE MINIMUM. TUNISIANS WOULD CERTAINLY HOPE FOR AT LEAST BRIEF APPEARANCE OF SECRETARY AT SOME TIME DURING MEETING, AND WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SECRETARY SEE FONMIN FOR SEPARATE SESSION. APART FROM THESE TWO OCCASIONS, WE DO NOT THINK MORE FROM SECRETARY WOULD BE NECESSARY. ON OCCASION WHEN MEETING IS HELD IN TUNISIA AND SECRETARY IS UNABLE TO VISIT TUNISIA AT THAT TIME, SUBORDINATE OFFICIAL COULD ACT ON HIS BEHALF. WE APPRECIATE THAT IN THIS INSTANCE BOTH ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY COULD PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT BE EXPECTED TO APPEAR TOGETHER. IN ADDITION TO WASHINGTON DELEGATION, EMBASSY WOULD WANT TO BE REPRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED BY WHOMEVER CAN CONTRIBUTE MOST TO AGENDA (E.G., CHIEF ECON SECTION, DIRECTOR USAID, CHUSLOT).

8. TIMING, FREQUENCY. WE THINK ANNUAL MEETING ROTATED BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND TUNIS WOULD BE PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE TO TUNISIANS. FOR THIS YEAR, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THERE IS SUFFICIENT AGREEMENT TO PERMIT ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORMATION OF COMMISSION DURING VISIT OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA TO WASHINGTON THIS SPRING. WE WOULD SUGGEST OCTOBER AS BEST MONTH FOR COMMISSION MEETING EACH YEAR, FIRST MEETING TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER 1975.

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9. EMPHASIS ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

A. GIVEN OUR DWINDLING AID RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL IN TUNISIA FOR INCREASED US PRIVATE INVESTMENT, WE SHARE DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST IN HAVING JOINT COMMISSION FOCUS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT. ACCORDINGLY, WE FAVOR PLACING EMPHASIS ON THIS AREA IN COURSE OF MEETINGS. FOLLOWING ARE SOME PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON TOPICS IN THIS CATEGORY TO BE DISCUSSED:

B. TRADE PROMOTION.

(1) DISCUSSION OF GENERAL LEVEL OF TRADE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES
AND PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE.

(2) DISCUSSION OF IMPEDIMENTS TO GREATER US
EXPORTS TO TUNISIA, INCLUDING NON-TARIFF BARRIERS.

(3) DESCRIPTION BY US SIDE OF 1974 TRADE ACT
AND IMPLICATIONS FOR TUNISIA, WITH EMPHASIS ON MULTILATERAL
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND GENERALIZES SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

(4) ASSISTANCE BY AVAILABLE US INSTITUTIONS
IN FINANCING US EXPORTS TO TUNISIA, PARTICULARLY THE
EXIMBANK.

(5) CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBILITY OF INITIATION
BY THE TUNISIANS OF A TUNISIAN-AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL
TO HELP FURTHER TRADE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

C. PRIVATE INVESTMENT.

(1) GENERAL REVIEW OF PRACTICAL RESULTS OF
RECENT NUMEROUS EFFORTS BY BOTH GOT AND USG TO STIMULATE
GREATER US PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN TUNISIA, PARTICULARLY
IN EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

(2) DRAWING UP OF PLANS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES
TO PROMOTE INVESTMENT.

(3) DISCUSSION OF ADVANTAGES AND IMPLICATIONS
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OF POSSIBLE TAXATION TREATY INTENDED TO FURTHER INVESTMENT
ACTIVITY.

(4) REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF INSTITUTIONS
AND PROGRAMS IN BOTH COUNTRIES IN ENCOURAGING AMERICAN
PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN TUNISIA.

(5) ANALYSIS OF PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED
"ARABO-DOLLAR" FINANCING OF US INVESTMENT IN TUNISIA
AND POSSIBLE OTHER COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE
EAST IN COOPERATION WITH TUNISIAN BANKS OR OTHER
INSTITUTIONS.

(6) EXAMINATION OF POSSIBILITY OF GOT HIRING AMERICAN
INVESTMENT CONSULTANT (POSSIBLY RECRUITED BY THE USG) TO
WORK WITH INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCY ON A 1 - 2 YEAR
CONTRACT TO FACILITATE US INVESTMENT IN TUNISIA.
SEELYE

NOTE: SECTION 3, TUNIS 457 ### OMISSION;
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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Draft Date: 23 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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